

The School Board Corner

By Robert Belman, Falmouth District
May 2005

THE BOSTON RED SOX ARE WORLD CHAMPIONS!

I have waited my entire life to say those 7 words! I hope to say them again in OCTOBER!!!

Spring finally got here, thank goodness, so students thoughts turn to graduation and the last day of school! To our graduates of 2005, I would like to say MUCH SUCCESS to you always. You should be proud that you have accomplished a major step towards adulthood. Keep up the hard work and dedication in all your endeavors and you will succeed.

On March 30, I had the honor and privilege of representing the Stafford School Board at the 4th Annual, VA CCIM and VA Business Magazine, "Dominion Directions" Conference in Richmond. Stafford Schools and the Haskell Hess Team were presented with 1 of only 4 Statewide awards for the MOST SIGNIFICANT TRANSACTION of 2004. This award was presented to us for our Public Private Partnership Venture which brought us the Margaret Brent Elementary School, the Mountain View High School, along with the North Stafford YMCA, and the Senior Living facility. I was very proud to represent, along with Mr. Scott Horan, director of planning and construction, Stafford County Public Schools as we received statewide recognition for this project. The eyes of Virginia are on us!

Among the criteria to be considered for this award is- creativity, problem solving, overcoming obstacles to make the project happen, the development concept, job creation, a positive impact on the community, and environmental sensitivity, and so on. Thanks go out to our staff, Stafford County administration, and all who supported this venture.

I would also like to spotlight another successful program in our Schools, the Partners for Safe Teen Drivers. Stafford Public Schools were recognized by the Virginia School Boards Association for this initiative to save lives and to reinforce positive changes in teen driving. Continued success and THANKS to Mrs. Carol Lysher our Health, PE and Driver Education Coordinator, our partner GEICO, and to our parents and students, who have taken the time to participate in this worthwhile program. For more information please contact Carol Lysher at 658-6694.

Thanks to all who have supported Adopt A Classroom. To date, 157 classrooms have been adopted!!! Not bad for a new program. A special thanks to Rachelle Cervantes of our Finance Department. She, along with Mr. Woodruff and staff are the unsung heroes for the SUCCESS of this program. Our marketing model is being used in other localities to promote Adopt A Classroom. Once again Stafford Schools are leading the way in innovative ideas, and partnerships. Visit www.AdoptAClassroom.com, or call your school board member for information on how you can adopt for next school year.

I appreciate the hospitality and comments as I visit the schools. The kids are always a joy, and it is evident that our teachers, principals and all employees care so much. Special thanks to the Service employees, cafeteria workers (who were always my favorite when I was in school) and our bus drivers who see to it that our children arrive to and from school safely.

I want to wish you all a very HAPPY SUMMER, may you all enjoy lots of sunshine and good health. Remember, this is YOUR school board. We are here to work for you.

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